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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON DEBT FORGIVENESS, JULY 11, 2005

1. On 07/09 the Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" carried an editorial entitled "Successful Summit." "The shadow of the terrorist attacks in London couldn't dull the historical results of the G-8 summit in which the debt forgiveness was ratified and \$50 million in aid was promised to fight poverty in Africa."

"Debt forgiveness or the \$50 billion for Africa do not represent a solution to extreme poverty but is a hopeful sign that the centers of political and economic power have realized the necessity to create a certain balance between those who have it all and the billions of people who can't even satisfy their hunger."

"If the wealthy countries keep their promise to help fight poverty in the world and the nations' leaders don't allow corruption and demagoguery to deviate resources there is a real possibility of creating not only a just world but also a safer one."

2. The Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled "The Summit and Terrorism." "Once again terrorism breeds terror. The day after these frightening and tragic events, the G-8 announced that it looked favorably upon debt relief for Honduras, which had been discussed in 2000 when the IMF and the World Bank reached the 'Decision Point,' classifying Honduras as a Highly Indebted Poor Country. The debt relief efforts, which reached the 'Point of Culmination' during Maduro's administration, are found in the framework of the HIPC Initiative (Initiative for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries)."

"Returning to the topic of the terrorist attacks against London which we vehemently condemn, as do all who wish to live in peace and civility repudiate violence. We close with a phrase from the leader of the country that today suffers the impact of this cruel violence: 'We speak today,' said Tony Blair at the closing of the Summit, 'under the shadow of terrorism, but we are not going to eclipse what we came here to achieve, since the objective of terrorism is not only to kill and harm the innocent, but also to produce desperation and anger in the hearts of people.'"

3. On 7/11 "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled "Breath." "A day after of the terrorists attacks in London the G-8 decided to give a breath of air to poor countries."

"People expect that the resources obtained from this generous relief would be invested transparently in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy so it will reduce the misery that has kept the country behind. The government will also have to take care the new levels of debt so that future generations won't have to pay for the expenses of our generation."

Palmer